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3.5(c)

SECRET/NOFORN [redacted] EXDIS

EO 13526 –
3.3(b)(1)>25Yrs
EO 13526
3.5(c)
NR

SENSITIVE ANNEX TO

INR WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS
OF DEVELOPMENTS IN HUMAN RIGHTS

No. 125, September 28, 1979

TRANSFERRED/RECOMMEND PARTIAL RELEASE
B1, 1.4(D)
CONCURRENCE REQUESTED - CIA

LATIN AMERICA

[redacted]

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Argentina

Timerman Released. Jacobo Timerman, Argentina's best-known political prisoner, was stripped of his citizenship and expelled from the country on September 25. He is expected to join his family in Israel.

Rumors concerning Timerman's impending release gained currency following a reported Supreme Court decision of September 17 that declared his detention illegal. The Court's decision was not been made public, but Embassy Buenos Aires sources have indicated that the Court acted independently of executive pressure.

Kidnapped in April 1977 by security agents, Timerman has been held despite a military tribunal's finding that he



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was not guilty of subversive actions and a July 1978 Supreme Court ruling that his detention under state-of-siege powers was unjustified.

3.3(b)(1) [redacted]

President Videla had promised the head of the Inter-American Human Rights Commission (IAHRC) that visited Argentina, September 6-20, that the government would respect the Supreme Court's decision in favor of Timerman.

3.3(b)(1) [redacted] 3.5(c)

INR Comment. Timerman's release is a significant accomplishment for Videla and his moderate military supporters. No evidence was ever published to substantiate charges that Timerman was involved in political or economic subversion. Furthermore, his continued detention seriously compromised the government at a time when the frequency of human rights violations was declining significantly. His expulsion probably can be attributed to a Videla decision to press the matter in the context of the IAHRC visit and the Supreme Court decision.

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